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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 14 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information.

On 13 and 14 October 2018, the illegitimate "international coalition" led United States of America committed yet another crime against innocent Syrian civilians when its warplanes used internationally prohibited white phosphorus bombs against homes in the city of Hajin, Dayr al-Zawr governorate. Several civilians, mostly women and children, were killed and injured in that heinous crime.

In many previous letters, including those dated 6 and 17 August 2017 (S/2017/684 and S/2017/717, respectively), the Syrian Arab Republic has drawn attention to the fact that the "international coalition" has been using internationally prohibited white phosphorus bombs in a systematic manner to bombard residential neighbourhoods in Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo and Hasakah, and has called upon the Security Council to take immediate action to stop such crimes and prevent their recurrence.

The systematic and deliberate use by the "international coalition" of internationally prohibited weapons against the Syrian people constitutes a flagrant violation of the norms of international law and international humanitarian law and of human rights instruments. This crime is yet another in the series war crimes and crimes against humanity that the "international coalition" has been committing against the Syrian people, crimes that include its ongoing support for terrorism and its use of terrorists and separatist militias to achieve its aims and implement its hostile schemes, which are directed against the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. In addition to conducting an international investigation into those crimes, the Council must condemn them and take immediate action to stop them and prevent their recurrence. Moreover, the Security Council must put an end to the hostile and illegal presence in Syrian territory of United States forces and other foreign forces and prevent them from implementing their schemes to undermine the unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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